

Amendments to the Claims

In the claims:

This Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing data in a memory device;

writing a pointer related to a location of the data to a known location;

indicating the data has a protected status; and

preventing a read of the pointer from the known location by any operating system supported process, permanently.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

returning a fixed value in response to a read request for the pointer.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the known location is a register in a memory controller.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the location of the data in a descriptor list table,

wherein the pointer indicates the location of the descriptor list table.

5. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

a first memory device to store a pointer to a descriptor list table;

a second memory device to store an indicator of a protected status; and

a control circuit to prevent a read of the pointer by any operating system supported process, permanently.

6. (Original) The device of claim 5, further comprising:

an output circuit to generate a fixed output when the pointer has a protected status.

7. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein the first memory device is a register in a memory controller.

8. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a memory device;

a processor;

a memory controller coupled to the memory device and processor, the memory controller to store a pointer to a descriptor list table and to prevent a read of the pointer by any operating system supported process, permanently, when the pointer is in a protected mode; and

an integrated audio controller coupled to the memory controller to process audio data.

9. (Original) The system of claim 8, further comprising:

a removable media drive coupled to the memory controller to read encrypted data.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

a graphics device to display encrypted data from the removable media drive.

11. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

means for receiving a request from any operating system supported process, permanently,
for a location of data;
means for determining a protected status of the data; and
means for returning a predetermined signal if the data has a
protected status.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for storing an indicator of the protected status.

13. (Original) The device of claim 11, further comprising:

means for returning a location of the data if the data has an unprotected status.

14. (Currently Amended) A machine readable medium having instructions stored therein
which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations comprising:

receiving a request from any operating system supported process, permanently, for
descriptor table base address;

determining if the descriptor table base address register is set in a protected mode; and
returning a fixed value if the register is in the protected mode.

15. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 14, having further instructions stored
therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:

storing an indicator of the protected mode.

16. (Original) The machine readable medium of claim 14, having further instructions stored therein which when executed cause a machine to perform a set of operations further comprising:
returning the descriptor table base address if the data is not in the protected mode.
17. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the known location is a register in a DMA controller.
18. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the stored data may be a encrypted video data or encrypted audio data.
19. (NEW) The method of claim 1, wherein the operating system supported process may be a ring 0 program.
20. (NEW) The device of claim 11, wherein the predetermined signal may be a signal indicating that the device is unavailable.